



Proposals are to be submitted in the following order as applicable: to the Office of Assessment and Accreditation (OAA), for academic programs (allow 2 weeks for a response), the Graduate Council (for graduate programs excluding Law and Medical) (allow 1 week for response), if applicable, and the Faculty Senate.

Refer to the Graduate Council's Procedures for Program Changes document for information on the approvals and notifications needed for Graduate program changes and the Proposal Submissions Specifications document for an explanation of the process and a list of the materials required.

(Please note that change approvals can take 2 semesters to complete.)

*Include this checklist at the beginning of each proposal.
(Complete the information below, save the form as a pdf, and insert it with the background materials that are specified, in the order listed, and send the package in 1-pdf document electronically as noted above.)*

KEY CONTACT PERSONNEL INFORMATION

First Name

Merike

Last Name

Blofield

Proponent's Title

Associate Professor

Department, if applicable

Women's and Gender Studies

School/College

Arts and Sciences

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Title of Proposal

Proposal to change the name of the Women's and Gender Studies undergraduate major and minor in the College of Arts and Sciences to the Gender and Sexuality Studies undergraduate major and minor.

(-continue to next page-)

MANDATORY MEMORANDA AND FORMAT

Please check that each item listed below is included in the proposal package of materials. The applicable title (i.e. Letter of Explanation, Memo from the Dean, etc.) must precede each section in the materials.

Only proposals conforming to this format will be accepted.

1. This completed checklist.

2. Letter of explanation. (2-3 pages only, double spaced, 12 pt font)

Yes No

If no, explain why.

3. A memo from the Dean(s) 1) signifying approval and, 2) signifying approval of the faculty of the relevant School(s) / Colleges(s).

Yes No

If no, explain why.

4. A memo that all affected or relevant School / College Council(s) have approved.

Yes No

If no, explain why.

5. A memo from the department chair(s) signifying approval of the faculty of the relevant department(s).

Yes No

If no, explain why.

6. A memo from the Office of Accreditation and Assessment (OAA) if the proposal involves academic programs (degrees, certificates, majors, minors, concentrations, specializations, tracks, etc.) such as new programs, closing programs, or program changes (such as changes in requirements, program length, modality, name, location).

(To be submitted by OAA to the Graduate Council or the Faculty Senate, as appropriate.)

Applicable Not applicable.

If not, explain why.

7. A memo from the Graduate School Dean signifying approval of the Graduate Council (for graduate programs only, excluding Law and Medical).

(To be submitted to the Faculty Senate by the Graduate Council.)

Applicable Not applicable.

If not, explain why.

8. Academic Deans Policy Council (ADPC) approval, for interdisciplinary issues and as appropriate. Please consult with the Dean of the Graduate School or the Secretary of the Faculty Senate to check if this is needed prior to submission.

Yes No

If no, explain why.

9. Additional required documents as listed on the "Proposal Submissions Specifications," i.e. market analysis, budget information, assessment of library collections, etc. as specified.

List additional documents included.

End form.

Changing the program name from Women's and Gender Studies to Gender and Sexuality

Studies:

There are two components to the name change: first, taking out "women" from the title; and second, adding "sexuality" to the title. I address both in turn. Overall, there are multiple benefits to re-naming the Women's and Gender Studies Program the Gender and Sexuality Studies program.

On the first issue, eliminating "women" and keeping "gender" in the title is more inclusive and a better reflection of the academic content of the program. In fact, having women in the title is both redundant and exclusive. Both women *and* men have a gender, and referring only to women in the program title is an inaccurate reflection of the thematic content of the program. It also sends the message that courses in this program are meant only or preferably for women, and that men may not be welcome.

In the words of our Core WGS Senior Lecturer, and expert in gender studies, Dr. Porter, one the usefulness of the name change to both reflect content and signal to potential interested students: "Psychologists like Janet Shibley Hyde (2005) have shown that people who integrate the qualities of both men and women are more successful in their careers and in their family lives. The name Gender Studies better reflects the program's gender-integrated pedagogy and research. Along with providing students with education that promotes their future success, gender studies courses are unique places for students of all genders to recognize not just what they have in common, but distinctive things about each other's lived experiences; this can help dispel negative ideas about gender. The name "Gender Studies" better communicates to

students that all of us have a gender, not just women. This is beneficial to male students, as well as to all genders. To study research and engage in comfortable classroom discussions on the lived experiences of all genders benefits gives students the ability to be astute thinkers and empathic citizens. Currently in our society, there is a critical need for people of all genders to have positive experiences learning from one another. To re-name the program Gender studies courses encourages the courses to be perceived as a place where all students can feel comfortable as learners.”

On the second issue, adding “sexuality” to the title, sexuality studies is its own research area, which overlaps but is not synonymous with gender studies. WGS currently offers courses that focus on or include sexuality studies, and therefore it should be included in the title. We house the LGBTQ Studies minor, which specifically focuses on sexuality studies. Thus, to best reflect program context, sexuality should be in the title.

When Women’s and Gender Studies programs were created across university campuses, often in the 1970s, they were referred to as Women’s Studies programs. Later, gender was added to reflect the evolving content of these programs. Now, many of our aspirational peer institutions have reformed their programs further, in line with what we propose here. For example, New York University, Tulane University, and the University of Southern California have gender and sexuality studies programs.

The College proposes to change the name of the “Undeclared” student track to “Exploratory.” We have two principal goals with this name change:

1. We want to remove the idea that “undeclared” students are lacking something, which is explicit in the negative prefix in the current term;
2. Concurrently, we want to send a signal that exploration and (self) discovery are integral part of the college experience.

In addition to this name change, the College will implement activities that will help exploratory students seek and find clarity concerning their personal, intellectual, and professional goals.

Such renaming is consistent with what many other institutions of higher learning have already done (among them: University of Florida; Florida State University; Auburn University; UC-Davis; Boston University; Ithaca College; and more).

